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## Students' bushranger experience set to be bigger than Ben Hall in Canowindra

Local News



Canowindra residents re-enacting the Siege of Canowindra.

History Here and the NSW Department of Education – DARTConnections will be presenting Bigger than Ben Hall in Canowindra on December 19 at 11:30am.

The event will feature bushranger films made by local Central West NSW primary schools, a re-enactment of the 1863 Siege of Canowindra, live bush music and stories that have become legends.

The event will be held at the Royal Hotel, the actual site where the Ben Hall Gang captured and held the townfolk of Canowindra for three days following their big gold heist near Eugowra.

Bigger than Ben Hall is a true bushranger experience to end the school year for primary schools. It is a web-based pilot project that will showcase the short films made by Cabonne Shire schools to schools across NSW, USA and Japan.

It is envisaged the project will help raise the profile of Canowindra as a tourist destination and aims to enthuse students about their local history.

The entire presentation will be broadcast via video YouTube Live from the Royal Hotel to schools across NSW.

“Bigger Than Ben Hall” is a large scale collaboration between The Project Zone, the Department of Education/DART Connections, Eugowra Museum, Orange Museum and eight primary schools across the Central West NSW and represents a project that has been evolving since February 2018.

These films about Ben Hall's activities in the region were scripted, acted and filmed by students at primary schools around the region.

Residents from Moyne Aged Care will attend the event to enjoy the films, music and atmosphere; participating in the events and interacting with the students.

DART Connections (NSW Department of Education) runs numerous similar events every year including the recent Invictus Games, War in the Pacific, the Ballina Shark Project (in conjunction with Dept of Primary Industries), Biosecurity at Tocal Homestead, Maitland (with DPI) the School of the Air 60th Anniversary, the Bathurst 200 (bicentennial), Sculpture by the Sea and many others. It regularly broadcasts overseas, linking schools as far afield as Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, California, Nagasaki, Tokyo with schools across NSW.



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